

An Essay
on

Cynanche Parotidea.

submitted as

An Inaugural Thesis

To the Examination of

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The

Trustees and Medical Professors
of the

University of Pennsylvania

for
The Degree of Doctor of Medicine

By
Paul Hamilton of Charleston S.C.

— 1809. —

1869.
The Librarian of
the University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pa.
Received of
John W. Powell, Esq.
the sum of
Twenty Dollars
for the purchase of
the book entitled
"The Librarian of
the University of Pennsylvania"
by John W. Powell, Esq.
1869.

An Essay &c.

Gynanche Parotidea called in common language Mumps, is among the most ancient diseases that infect the human race: - Hippocrates himself makes mention of it. nevertheless few Authors have treated of it with the accuracy which its occasional ravages would seem to demand: - even the accurate Cullen has passed by this Malady as insignificant.

Gynanche Parotidea is often an epidemical pestilence, sometimes endemical, never intercurrent and seldom sporadic. It mostly attacks persons between the years of puberty and adult age

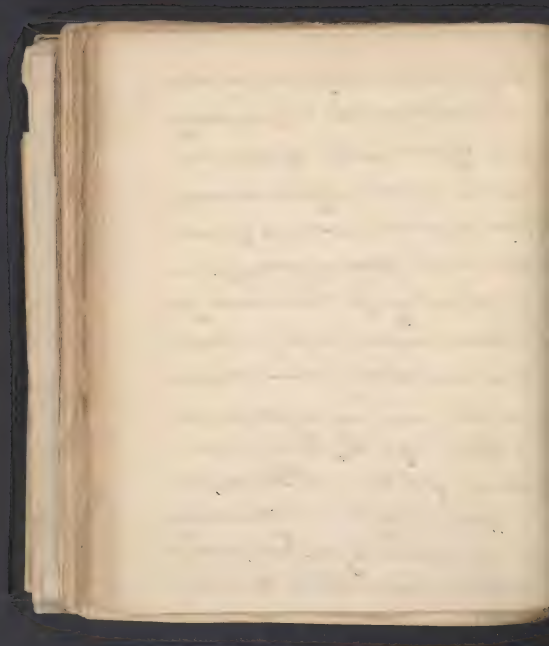
and rarely ever after Forty. yet Doctor
Hamilton in a paper published in the transac-
tions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh men-
tions this circumstance as having occurred -
Young Children according to Dr. Cullen are
not liable to it, all Authors are unanimous
in declaring this disease contagious, and Dr.
Hamilton never knew it to be contracted twice by
the same person, however this incidence had
taken place both in my own person, and others
with whom I am acquainted - Dr. Hamilton
saw the Mumps epidemical twice in the City of
Lynn, and they (I believe) have prevailed all over
the United States, yet have never been known to

occur but in Spring and Autumn. - I believe
the remote cause of Cynanche Parotidea to
be a specific contagion. I found this belief
on the circumstance of its occurring in all
situations and places. I have heard of its
prevailing as well in the mountainous parts
of South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia
as in the lower lands of the same States; indeed
if the assertion of many from whom I have
derived intelligence be true, this complaint has
been no where restricted by situation or soil in
America. I cannot possibly believe that any mod-
ification of Miasmata acting as a remote
cause on the constitution of Man is adequate to the

production of Mumps, not even if the invisible
and insensible qualities of the air with the
difference of diet be taken into consideration,
however if the temperatures of the Seasons previous
to the prevalence of this disease as an epidemic
had been noticed, it would give great correctness
to our views on this Subject. —

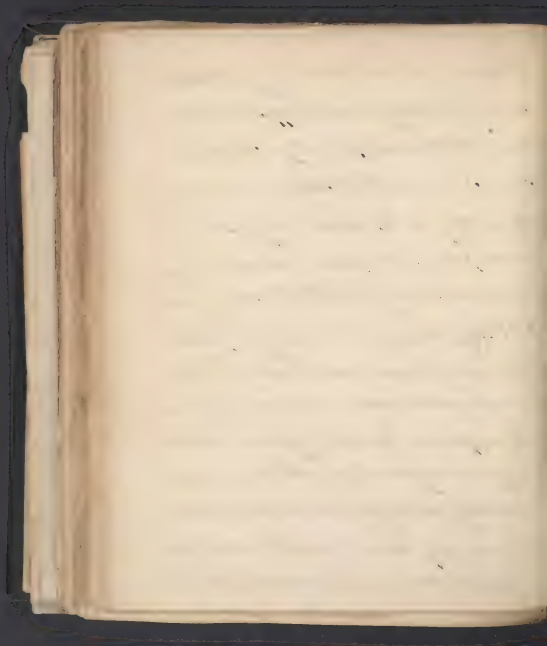
The premonitory signs of this disease
are lassitude, heaviness and general restlessness
succeeded by slight Fever & rigors, swelling of one
or both parotid Glands with stiffness & obscure
pains attend on every movement of the lower
jaw — The treatment should be rest, low diet
laxatives and vomits with an Opiate at Night;

but if it has proceeded for several days the tumour in the Glands extends to the neighbouring parts, the fever becomes high, the pulse is hard and tense, deglutition is difficult, the countenance florid and the tumor is sometimes of a natural colour, but often of dusky or sepulchral appearance, & on the fourth day after the commencement of the tumefaction a discharge from the excretories behind the ears occurs with tendency to sweat. It is remarkable that in common cases very little pain attends at this time. If on the fourth day a sudden subsidence of the tumor in the Glands takes place, an apprehension may be immediately entertained of the morbid excitement being translated, if in men to the Testes - in women to the breasts - However should

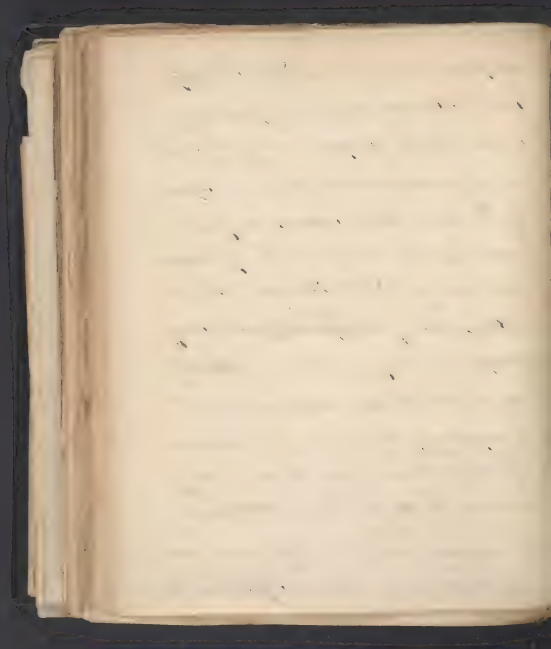


the disease wear over the sixth day without this occurrence no danger need be apprehended - The case will terminate favourably - Remedies - First. I concur with Dr. Rush in recommending blood-letting in this disease in every instance where the pulse is above par, or in other words indicates it; notwithstanding what has been said against it.

Dr. Hamilton objects to bleeding in febrile terms and gives as a reason the case of a patient in whom frantic delirium was induced by it in his own practice: but this to my mind is not a sufficient objection, because the Disease in all probability was suffocated in that case - & a single bleeding only served to unlock the Blood vessels whereas a second or third venesection would

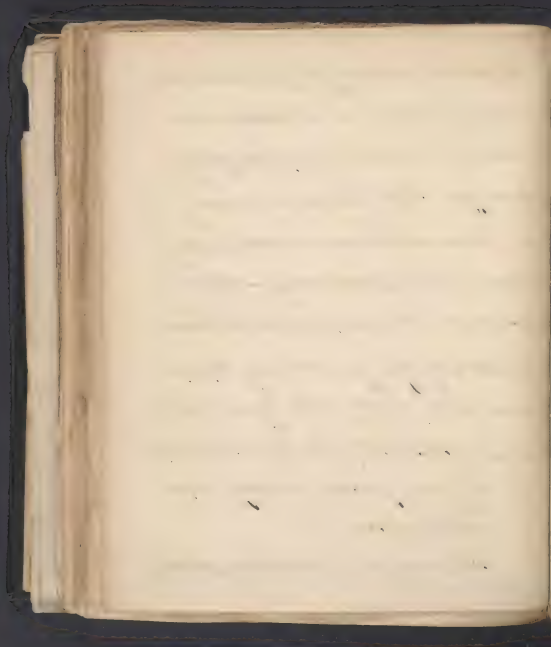


have produced a cure - Second - Drs Cullen, Keil
Geach & Hamilton all concur in prescribing
vomits. When the Symptoms run high they should
never be administered till after previous depletion
by the lancet. Third. Cathartics are of use in
certain cases, but should never be of the drastic
kind according to Doct^r Hamilton. - Fourth.
Blisters, claim great ^{attention} ~~importance~~ in the cure of
Mumps, indeed if we reflect how useful they
are, in all glandular disorders, it would not
be surprising if they were here, first resorted to -
Experience, however proves them too irritating
not only in this disease, but in all others where
the symptoms are of a very high grade. Venese-
ction should precede them - Issues have been

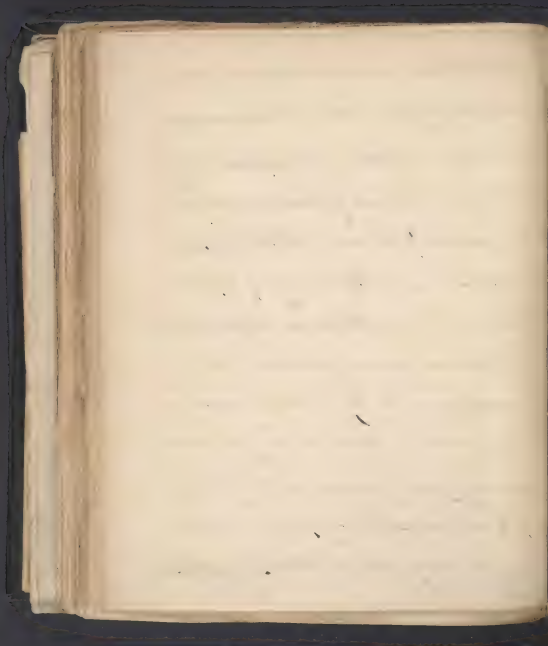


thought to be indicated by the aforementioned discharge from the emunctories, but I fear their irritation would overbalance any possible good they could effect. Fifth. Sudorifics are advised by all Authors and their administration is certainly attended with happy consequences — Nature indeed points them out from about the third to the sixth Day, by a general tendency to perspiration which prevails with those affected with this disease — Sixth. The parotid Gland should be kept warm by means of a Flannel bandage confined around the head & Jaws. —

It is worthy of remark that the parotid Glands



in this Disease have never been known to ulcerate; but they often remain indurated even for Weeks after a cessation of the complaint in every other respect - In case of translated tumefaction in (Synanche) Parotidea to the Testicles, I would advise immediate Blood-letting, if the pulse indicated it, and Blister over the parotid Glands to persons so situated fomentations have been recommended, but they are dangerous as the morbid excitement is often shifted thereby to the Brain, inducing frantic delirium and convulsions, yet if by such means these symptoms were to occur my first remedy would be Blood-letting - and -



second Plister both to the parotid glands and
testicles, meaning thereby to repel the morbid action.

When a translation of the tumefaction which Mumps
occasions takes place in Women, it is reasonable to
expect from a parallel of circumstances the ovaria
will be effected, but this has never been known to
happen, the Mamma always becoming swelled.

Cynanche parotidea sometimes produces the most
horrid effects on Men by destroying the Testicles.

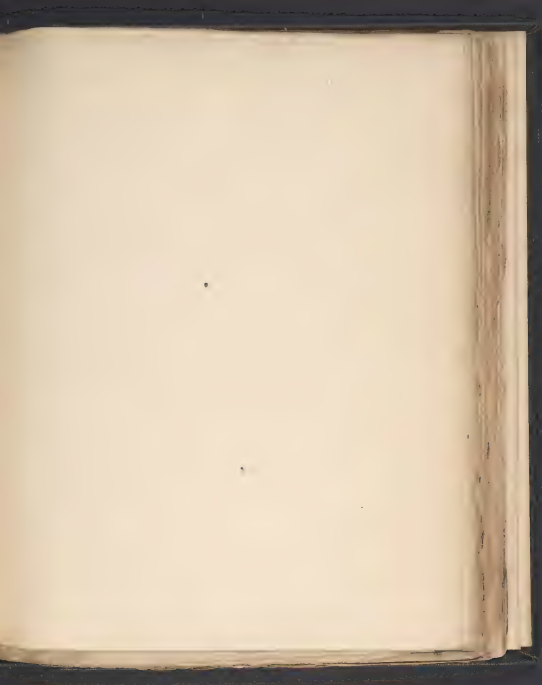
Drs Hamilton and Koch relate at length several
instances wherein this accident obtained, - The
Testicles became completely absorbed and nothing
remained but the Scrotum - Instances of this kind
are not wanting in America, ~~as in the following~~



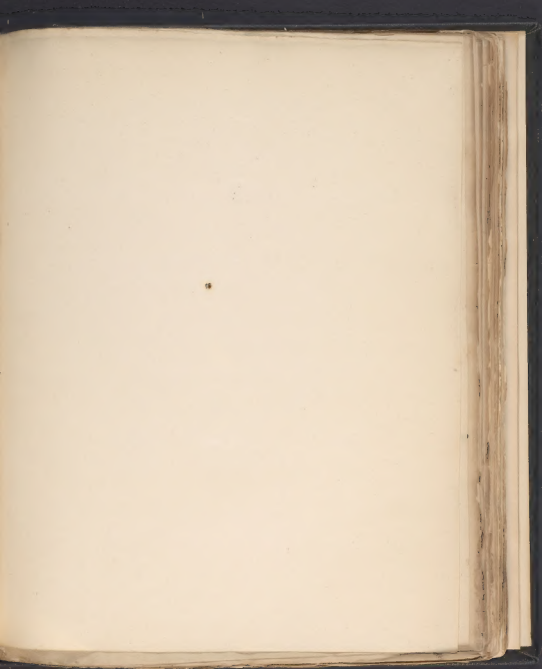
an illustrious American general
~~Washington~~ is said to have intimated a
suspicion of injury in this way. - How much
then should a disease of this kind be attended
to, since the greatest pleasures that pertain
to human nature might be so quickly aban-
doned, and that too in a disease so easily re-
-mediable -

Finis.











The General Assembly

of the State of New York

in Session

at Albany

on the 1st day of January

1880

Resolved

That the sum of

one hundred and

fifty thousand

dollars

be and the same

1840